517 and coffee-shops. This activity continues until about eleven o'clock especially in the summer when it is pleasanter to be out in the open air than indoors.

377 Manama is supplied with electric light from the Government Power
655 House, situated on the point at the north-east end of Manama. The
365 town water supply, also a Government concern, comes from artesian
312 wells in what used to be the Municipal Garden from where it is pumped into large tanks high above Manama and from there distributed by mains to all parts of the town and to numerous drinking fountains and public baths. This water system, which was installed by Holloway Bros., was completed in 1949, before this the water came from private and public artesian wells and was distributed by water carriers.

QASARI

491 It is logical in describing Bahrain to leave Manama by the main road, Awal Road, but a more interesting drive can be taken by following the 2nd class road which branches off from Awal Road beyond the
361 Mental Hospital. After passing through a number of villages of
312 comparatively little interest the road comes to a shaded lane bordered
529 on one side by a lake. This is Ain al-Qasari, whose pool, although more extensive than that at Adari, is shallow and therefore unsuitable for swimming. Here there is a garden and a pleasant little house overlooking the pool, admittance to which is free, which is much frequented by picnicers. In the pool there are fish, some of which are as much as eighteen inches in length, as well as turtles. These are so accustomed to visitors that when people walk along the edge of the water or sit in the house, they swim lazily to the surface, waiting to be thrown pieces of bread or food. In a country consisting mostly of desert, and where a small and dirty pool usually constitutes the local water supply, the attractive appearance of Ain al-Qasari, particularly at sunset, is very agreeable.

296 There are in fact two springs called Qasari, the second, situated on Awal Road, is better known by the name of the "Dhobis Pool" on account of the large numbers of Indian washermen who mercilessly beat the dirty clothes on slabs of rock, and when they have finished hang them out to dry in long lines by the side of the road. It is a not unusual sight to round a corner of the road and to see before one lines of clothes, billowing in the breeze like wind-socks, and the frantic activity of the dhobis standing in the water in an odd array of clothing attempting to finish their task and dry the laundry before the sun sets.

BILAD AL-QADIM

361 A short way beyond Ain al-Qasari is Bilad al-Qadim, literally "The Old Town," formerly the capital of Bahrain, which lies between the Suq al-Khamis Mosque, whose twin minarets are a landmark for navigators, and the Khor Mukhtar inlet on the east coast. Bilad al-Qadim can also be approached from Awal Road opposite the Suq

al-Khamis Mosque and half a mile south of the village there is an inlet of the sea which can be crossed at low tide by a ford which leads to the village of Tubli. 361

Bilad al-Qadim is a Shiite village and was the capital of Bahrain before the Arab conquest of the Islands. It is frequently referred to in local Shiite histories and is described but not named in a number of early Moslem writings. A large area of the town is now in ruins, but its walls and mounds show that it was once a place of considerable size and importance. According to local reports the sandy mound near the School opposite Suq al-Khamis Mosque is all that remains of the fort that protected the town, while the mosque itself was its Friday Mosque. The Thursday Market (Suq al-Khamis), after which the district takes its name, is probably a relic of the time when this was the capital of Bahrain and when goods were brought here from the country for sale, just as today the Wednesday Market serves the same purpose in Manama.

There are several well-known springs in the vicinity including Qasari, which has already been mentioned, the Dhobi Pool and Abu Zaidan. A relic of the old town still stands in the shape of Masjid ar-Rafia, a mosque built over a spring, which is on the west side of the town and contains an ancient Kufic inscription. Date groves and gardens surround the town but many of the inhabitants work in Manama, where some of them own shops. The white buildings in the clearing opposite the Suq al-Khamis Mosque are a Government Boys School and a dispensary. [312]

ADARI

"The Lido of Bahrain" is a description which is often used for Ain Adari (The Virgin's Pool). It is especially applicable in the summer when every evening buses, cars, lorries and bicycles convey people from Manama to the deep, cool blue waters of the pool where they swim or sit about in the public garden or coffee-shop. Adari is the largest natural spring in Bahrain and the stream which flows from it irrigates many acres of gardens. 312 529

Adari was once a very messy pool where camels and donkeys were watered, but it has been developed by the government into a bathing place. The sides of the pool have been lined with cement and provided with steps, there is a mosque, a coffee shop, bathing huts and diving boards, and around the pool a flower garden where oleandar, bougainvillea and ponciana flourish. The road to Adari, which branches off Awal Road, is indicated by a sign-post about half a mile south of Suq al-Khamis. [491]

UPPER AND LOWER SEHLAH

These are two villages on opposite sides of Awal Road. Upper Sehlah is a small village of stone and barasti houses built on a hill overlooking the surrounding gardens; in summer the village expands when the date pickers descend on the village and put up their barastis. 361 245 221

1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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Aerial view of the tumuli of Aali. In the background, to the right of the photo, the Jebel ad-Dukhan can be seen.

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529

Adari Pool.

ZELLAQ

361 South again of Malakiya is Zellaq, the southernmost village on the
342 western Coast of Bahrain and approximately three miles west of Sakhir. A road runs from Zellaq to Awali and is much used by BAPCO employees coming to swim at the former place. The houses of Zellaq village, which are of stone, are built along the shore and many of them are large and spacious. As a result of the activities of BAPCO, Zellaq village has increased in size and prosperity and now contains a number of substantial white stone buildings which are conspicuous from a long distance across the flat and sandy plain that surrounds it.

162 The inhabitants of Zellaq are Sunni Arabs; some are from the Dawasir tribe, and many of them are dependents of the Ruling Family.
311 North of the village there are a number of large gardens, irrigated by innumerable artesian wells, which are owned by members of the Ruling Family and by their servants; these gardens form a green belt along the two miles of coast between Zellaq and Sedad.

312 The Bahrain Petroleum Company has a pump house at Zellaq which supplies Awali with much of its water and Zellaq was also once the discharging point for tankers bringing crude oil from Saudi
517 Arabia, before the submarine pipe-line was laid. Near the pumping station is the BAPCO Plage, the excellent bathing place which is much used by the employees of BAPCO, particularly in the Summer evenings.

RAS AL-BARR

529 This, the southernmost point of the Bahrain islands, is a popular
484 place for summer picnics, but the approaches to it are difficult, and although never dangerous they can easily cause trouble to visitors by
491 the softness of the sand. It is best to travel in parties with not less than two cars, so that one can come to the help of the other if necessary, and care should be taken to keep to the tracks, however faintly indicated rather than to carve out new roads in the desert. The road to Ras al-Barr from Zellaq first passes through Mutalla, the Ruler's hunting lodge, while that from Awali past the Jebel passes another hunting lodge at Rumaitha before joining the Western road at Akala. From here the road goes south, past the swamps on the coast and along the narrow strip of sand which marks the end of the island.

136 In certain seasons of the year the shores along this part of Bahrain
262 are covered with the eggs of sea-birds, and many Arab dhows anchor off the coast while the crews remove the eggs for food. If one is lucky, while driving down the coast, hare and gazelle may be seen, as well as rose-tinted flamingoes on the shore.

MUHARRAQ ISLAND

MUHARRAQ

491 The visitor from Manama approaches Muharraq by crossing the
486 1½ mile long causeway and Shaikh Hamed Bridge, completed in 1942,

312 many of the travellers who have visited the islands. Men with deflated sheepskins dive down to the spring and place the mouth of the skin over the place where the fresh water emerges ; the skin then fills with fresh water and when full the diver comes to the surface. Before artesian wells were drilled in Bahrain both Muharraq and Manama obtained much of their water in this way, but today, owing to artesian piped wells and water systems, the undersea springs are little used except those to the north of Bahrain near the pearling banks. A Turkish traveller who visited Bahrain in 1554, Sidi Ali, says of the submarine springs, "The sailors provided with a leather sack, dive down into the sea and bring the fresh water from the bottom for Rais Murad's (the Governor of Bahrain) use. This water is particularly pleasant and cold in spring time. God's Power is boundless !" There is a 173 legend concerning the spring of Abu Mahur which says that in the time of the Caliph Merwan (684-685) a certain Ibn Hakim, a chief in Qatif, wished to marry the lovely daughter of a Bahrain shaikh. His suit was refused and so he attacked the islands and captured all the wells which supplied the towns on Bahrain Island, but the guardian diety of the Bahrainis caused the well Abu Mahur to appear in the sea near Muharraq to succour his people.

NABIH SALIH

101 A most attractive island is Nabih Salih, set in the Khor-al-Kab between Umm al-Hassan and the mainland of Bahrain. With its ●529 thick cultivation, for the date palms run right down to the sea shore, and its many springs, including a large pool much frequented by [788] bathers, Nabih Salih is a very popular place for visitors. In addition to its pool it is a place of pilgrimage for the Shia of Bahrain who go to pay their respects to the tomb of Salih after whom the island is named. The date palms of the island are particularly fine, they compare very favourably with those elsewhere in Bahrain, which is mainly due to the pool already mentioned, Safahiya, which irrigates much of the island. [505] Nabih Salih can be visited by launch or sailing boat, the nearest point to it on Bahrain is Ain al-Hakim ; boats can also be obtained from Umm al-Hasan or from Sitra. People have been known to swim to the island, but this is not the only way of getting there and in the summer this method is inclined to be rather exhausting.

SITRA

[101] South of Nabih Salih and close to the coast of Bahrain is Sitra 361 Island, which in addition to its many villages and gardens contains the Tank Farm and Drum Plant of BAPCO and the land end of the jetty. The site of these installations is a strip of bare and often sea-swept sands, but to the north of the island there are many gardens and a sizeable pool, Ain Raha, which is much visited by the people of Muharraq and Manama. Among the villages of North Sitra are Wadiyan, Sufala, Kharijya and Kuriya. Near the third village is a school and police station. To the south of the island is Umm al-Baidh, literally "Mother

1; Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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The Refinery. Photo : *Bahrain Petroleum Company.*

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Qasari Pool. Photo : *Sir Charles Belgrave.*

hacking as well as for racing and they are often willing to lend them to those interested in riding. With the exception of a few horses owned by Europeans, the remainder in Bahrain are the property of H.H. The Ruler, of the State Police and of other members of the Ruling Family. The keeping of horses in Bahrain is an expensive matter as the cost of fodder is high. 526 231

There are at the time of writing only two race meetings a year, these are held at the Manama Racecourse on Jufair Road. The race meetings take place in the spring and autumn, but it is hoped shortly to increase their number. The Races are run by a committee which receives the full support and patronage of the Ruler and there is a Totalisator under Government control. The races are very popular in Bahrain and not only is the Enclosure always packed with many hundreds of Arabs and Europeans but the whole length of the track is lined with onlookers who during the morning of the races come in buses, taxis and on foot to the Racecourse. The races vary in distance from four furlongs to one mile, some are handicaps and others are open. The Race Meetings of Bahrain are one of the social events of the year and people come from Dhahran and Qatar for the occasion. The brightly coloured dresses of the ladies, the equally colourful clothes of the Arabs and the more sombre get-up of the Englishmen are worthy of this Gulf Ascot ! 526 542

Bathing. Around the shores of Bahrain are a number of excellent beaches, particularly to the south of the island, away from the villages. Unfortunately the coast of Bahrain is so shallow that it is often necessary to walk for a long way into the sea before deep water is reached. Swimming and picnicing is particularly pleasant at Ras al-Barr and along the west coast of Bahrain below Zellaq. There is no real danger from swimming in the sea, sharks are very rarely seen and it is only the occasional ray that should be treated with respect. Swimming shoes are, however, very necessary as the sharp coral stone in many places along the coast causes bad cuts which are liable to go septic. At Zellaq there is the BAPCO Plage which, in the summer, sees an attendance of over 50 a day and as many as 200-300 bathers at week-ends. 526 529

There are a number of places for fresh water bathing, the Pool at Adari is very pleasant but in the summer is inclined to be crowded. There are also pools at Ain Hakim, Sitra and elsewhere. At Awali there are two swimming baths and the Gymkhana Club also possesses a large bath situated in very attractive surroundings. In all the natural springs and in the baths which receive their water direct from artesian wells, the water has a temperature of about 83 degrees ; this remains the same in winter and in summer so that in the former the water seems warm, in the latter, cool.

Other Sports. In addition to these activities it is possible to play many other games in Bahrain, including tennis, golf, hockey, cricket, volley-ball, football, etc.

There are a number of public and private tennis courts in Bahrain, in Awali the courts of the BAPCO Club, and in Manama the Bahrain

526 Sports Club, and the Gymkhana Club have courts and the Ahli Club is
●529 also building some. Tennis is often played at night, by the light of batteries of flood-lamps, and there are many tennis matches between Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. There are also cups and shields for Bahrain tournaments.

Bahrain has two golf courses, one in Manama, around the Racecourse, the other near Awali. The latter belongs to the BAPCO Club and is situated in the desert between Awali and Sitra. As with other sports, golf teams from Bahrain play matches with teams from other parts of the Persian Gulf, but this is a sport that is confined to Europeans and Americans, the Arabs not yet having taken it up.

Football is one of the most popular sports in Bahrain, both with Arabs and Europeans, and has been played since the late 'twenties although there was no general organisation for its encouragement. In 1952, however, the Bahrain Football Association was formed and was supported by the Ahli Club's team, the Muharraq Sports team and the teams of the Gulistan Club, the Ferdousi Club, the R.A.F., the International Aeradio Company and the Bahrain Petroleum Company. It is the eventual aim of the Association to build a sports stadium in Bahrain, but till this object can be achieved, the Association does what it can to encourage sporting spirit in Bahrain and to organize matches and tournaments.

The other games mentioned above are also played, but on a smaller scale than the ones already described in detail. There is no doubt, however, that with the cinemas, with the clubs and with the opportunity of participation in the many sports played in Bahrain there are many ways of spending one's leisure hours and enjoying one's stay in Bahrain.

CHAPTER II

GARDENING IN BAHRAIN

247 GARDENING in Bahrain often seems to be a frustrating and disappointing hobby, but in time and with perseverance satisfactory results can be obtained and it is possible in the cold season to have a garden full of colour and flowers. The soil is thin and salty, the water is somewhat brackish and the strong north wind which blows in the winter is apt to play havoc with young seedlings. All gardens are irrigated as the rainfall is very small. Rain, when it does fall, often does more harm than good, it splashes the salty surface soil on to the stems of plants, shrubs and sometimes trees which causes small plants to die and often damages trees and shrubs. It is to prevent this damage that gardeners irrigate the ground immediately after rain, a labour which appears rather superfluous to people who do not appreciate the reason.